

REMARKS

Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remain of the opinion that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims Status

Claims 7, 16 and 18-23 had been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims were indicated allowable because they recited that the printing plate support has a water content of not more than 0.5% by weight. Claims 1, 8 and 17 have been amended herein to recite that the support has a water content of not more than 0.5% by weight. Because of these amendments, Claims 7, 16 and 23 have been canceled. Additionally, Claims 18-20 and 22 have been amended herein to be dependent upon Claim 17. This has been done to correct an obvious typographical error in the dependency of these claims.

Thus, under examination are Claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17-22.

Claim Objections

Claim 23 had been objected to as being improperly dependent. Claim 23 has been canceled herein and, as recognized by the Examiner, Claims 18-20 and 22 have been amended to be dependent upon Claim 17.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-6, 8-15 and 17 had been rejected as being unpatentable over the combination of Tsukamoto and Hiraoka. In light of the amendments made to Claims 1, 8 and 17, it is deemed that these claims are now allowable. Since Claims 2-6, 9-15, and 18-22 are ultimately dependent upon Claims 1, 7 and 17, respectively, it is submitted that these dependent claims are also allowable. Thus, in light of the amendments made to the claims, the prior art rejection is now moot.

Specification Amendments

The Specification has been amended herein to correct an obvious typographical error. No new matter has been entered.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit account #02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS AND MERCANTI, LLP

By: Donald C. Lucas
Donald C. Lucas, Reg. # 31,275
(Attorney for Applicants)
475 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016
Tel. # (212) 661-8000

DCL/mr

Encl: Return receipt post-card